

Hi, I'm Ranger Ernie, from Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument and today we are up here in the Ajo Mountains looking at the monument's archeological sites. If you look around me here you can see that we are in a rock shelter site, and on the ground is evidence that there were people living here hundreds of years ago. Now this may seem like a remote and inhospitable place to live, actually there were plenty of resources available to help people stay up here. There was water from the washes, there were plants for food such as the agaves and the organ pipe cactus fruit, and there was shelter provided over here by the rock shelter to protect you from the elements. Now most of this monument has been unrecorded archeologically- maybe only between five and ten percent has actually been looked at and surveyed. That means that most of this place is still being discovered; and we need your help. If you are out exploring Organ Pipe, and you come across a site- it is very important that you do not touch anything. Doing that can disturb the site, and destroy certain evidence and data that we need to help preserve this place. Any site you come across, please report it to the monument archeologist. Other than that, you are welcome to come out here to enjoy and help explore the past with us.